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July 19, 2016

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Sachi A. Hamai 
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

Executive Summary

On July 14, 2016, Congress left Washington, D.C. for a seven-week summer recess, and will not reconvene until September 6, 2016. This year's Congressional summer recess is two weeks longer than usual to accommodate the Republican and Democratic national conventions, which are being held the last two weeks in July.

The Senate recessed without sending two major House-passed bills of County interest to the President – the Family First Protection Services Act (H.R. 5456) or the Zika Response and Preparedness Act (H.R. 2577). Congress also recessed without sending any Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017 appropriations bills to the President. To date, the House has passed five of the 12 individual FFY 2017 appropriations bills while the Senate has passed only three of them.

On July 13, 2016, the Senate passed and sent the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (S. 524), which addresses opioid addiction and abuse, to the President, who said that he will sign it into law.

Family Protection Services Act (H.R. 5456)

The County, in collaboration with the California Department of Social Services, County Welfare Directors Association, and other child welfare advocates in the State, successfully worked to delay Senate floor action on H.R. 5456 with the assistance of Senators Boxer and Feinstein. Senate Finance Committee Chair Orrin Hatch (R-UT)

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Each Supervisor
July 19, 2016
Page 2

and Ranking Minority Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) wanted to send H.R. 5456, as passed by the House, to the President through Senate passage of the bill on unanimous consent before the Senate recessed. However, the bill was not moved on the Senate floor last week because all Senators did not agree to unanimous consent.

Zika Response and Preparedness Act (H.R. 2577)

On July 14, 2016, an attempt to proceed to a Senate vote to pass H.R. 2577, which would provide \$1.1 billion in supplemental funding to prepare for and respond to the public health threat posed by the Zika virus, was blocked by Senate Democrats. The Senate voted 52 to 44 to proceed to a final vote, falling short of the required 60-vote majority. Senate Democrats support \$1.9 billion in supplemental Zika funding, as requested by the President. They also oppose offsetting spending cuts and policy riders included in H.R. 2577, such as a rider to block Zika funding for Planned Parenthood clinics in Puerto Rico.

FFY 2017 Appropriations Bills

Early this year, Congressional Republican leaders pledged to enact all 12 individual appropriations bills for the first time in two decades. While all 12 FFY 2017 appropriations bills were approved by House and Senate Appropriations Committees, only five FFY 2017 appropriations bills were passed by the House and only three by the Senate. Differences over contentious policy riders have been the main obstacle to passing appropriations bills. It is all but certain that a short-term Continuing Resolution will have to be enacted before FFY 2017 begins on October 1, 2016, to temporarily fund Federal programs and operations and avoid a Federal government shutdown.

Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (S. 524)

On July 13, 2016, the Senate passed, 92 to 2, S. 524, legislation aimed at combatting the overuse of and addiction to opioid prescriptions. The bill creates a number of new competitive grant programs relating to opioid abuse and treatment, and reauthorizes one existing competitive grant program. It does not appropriate funds for any of these programs, which later must be funded in annual appropriations bills.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
MT:gl

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist